



NEWS NOTES

Quarterly Publication of the Southern Maine Library District

Summer 2009

LAST NEWSLETTER!

I write this with great anticipation and also with some sadness as I prepare to retire on July 31. After 33 years as the SMLD District Consultant, it is definitely time to move on. I must admit that I will miss all of my library friends and colleagues, and the many exciting projects we have worked on together over the years.

Libraries will always be one of my major passions. My predecessor Phyllis Ainsworth told me that this position was the perfect job for her, and it has been for me, too. Where else could I have met so many interesting and knowledgeable people? Librarians, authors, artists, journalists, architects, and devoted library trustees, administrators, and Friends. Where else could I have had the opportunity to research, plan and carry out so many projects with so many colleagues?

I cannot adequately express how much I have appreciated the willingness of so many to pitch in and work on SMLD projects – the Bare Bones List of Reference Resources, the New Century Mobile Laptop Lab, the Literary Map of Maine, Reading Round Up Conference and Cream of the Crop Collection, SCOOP Purchasing Cooperative, Summer Reading Festivals, Performer Showcases, Maine Author Receptions, Books for Babies grant project, Trustee Forums, and much more. Special thanks to the current and past Board members and to SMLD Secretaries Florence Johnson and Elaine Bissonnette, and State Library staff.

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and notes and new additions to our garden! They have brought me (and my husband and four children) such pleasure.

What will I be doing in my retirement? Why I'll be thinking of all of you as I relax on the sofa munching chocolate bon bons and reading all the books I have wanted to read but never had the time to read!

With best wishes and fond memories,
Shirley Helfrich

SMLD Board News

Newly-elected officers of the SMLD Board elected for the 2009 – 2010 year:

Chair -- **Janet Cowen**, Maine Medical Center Library
Vice Chair -- **Mamie Antoine Ney**, South Berwick Public Library

Until the position of SMLD District Consultant is filled, the SMLD Board will be coordinating meetings and projects with the help of Administrative Assistant **Elaine Bissonnette**. SMLD members may also contact one of the other district consultants: CMLD's **Stephanie Zurinski** at the Maine State Library or NMLD's **Valerie Osborne** at the Bangor Public Library. See the consultants contact information at <http://www.maine.gov/msl/lib/districts/index.htm>

PPL Building Construction Marches Forward

As I write this, Portland Public Library's Monument Square Building is in the midst of its ambitious renovation with most of the collections contained in a small area on the first level. While things are tight in the current configuration, the Library was able to retain a reasonably-sized lending collection on the shelves and can still order items for delivery to patrons and other libraries.



Progress is right on schedule so far in spite of the continuous rain experienced this spring. Thus it appears that Phase I will be completed on target next spring with newly-designed spaces for teens and children, a new entrance, an expanded Rines auditorium and Lewis Art Gallery, and a new façade.

Look for updates on the library's website
<http://www.portlandlibrary.com/>

SCOOP Cooperative

July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012 is the term for the new SCOOP contract. A list of vendors, discounts, and other details can be found on the Maine State Library website <http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/districts/scoop.htm>.

Discount information is password-protected and should be used only by Maine Regional Library System members. Passwords to the site remain the same as they were for the previous contract.

Please pay special attention to invoices and make sure that your library is not being charged for shipping on continuations. If you find a charge, contact the vendor and ask for a credit. Even better, contact the vendor *before* ordering to make sure they do not list a charge for standing orders on invoices.



The cooperative covers library books, furniture, equipment and supplies. All Maine Regional Library System members in the three library districts are automatically members of SCOOP and eligible for the discounts.

Statewide Liaison Committee

The District Liaison Committee submitted a report in June to the Maine Library Commission, outlining its findings regarding statewide library issues and making recommendations based on their findings.

Led by Topsham Library Director **Susan Preece**, the committee met with representatives of the professional associations, Infonet, MINERVA, FOML (Friends of Maine Libraries), and MLTA (Maine Library Trustee Association). The committee plans to continue meeting for the foreseeable future in order to work on collaborative projects, common bylaws, and continuing education.

SMLD representatives to this committee are Board Chair Janet Cowen and Vice Chair Mamie Anthoine Ney. Past Board Chair Susan Trent is also continuing on the committee.

Tri-District Council Meeting

The three library districts of the Maine Regional Library System and the Maine Library Association are meeting jointly for a fall conference "How to Build a Neighborhood / Community One Hello at a Time"

Friday, October 30, 2009

Augusta Civic Center

Nationally recognized speaker Pat Wagner will share strategies for networking, building coalitions, and reaching underserved populations. Real problems will be solved for participating libraries. Wagner has worked with Pattern Research, Inc. and its predecessor the Office for Open Network since 1977. She is an educator, trainer, writer and consultant, focusing on personnel, management, leadership, marketing, career and strategic planning issues. She has special interests in conflict management, project management, community outreach and future studies. FMI: <http://www.pattern.com/>. Staff at all types of libraries are invited to attend.

Fee: \$30. Further details and registration at

<http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

SMLD Certificate Awarded

Cori McGrath and **Richard Tucker** of Tucker Library Interiors were presented with SMLD Certificates of Appreciation at the Spring Council Meeting held May 29 in Portland. McGrath and Tucker were honored for their years of volunteering on the Maine Library Makeover project. They have moved shelving units, taken old tables apart, moved heavy furniture, and offered endless suggestions about improving the 19 libraries that have experienced Library Makeovers since the program began in 2006.

This annual award was begun in 1984 to recognize deserving individuals who have made an impact at a regional or state level. To nominate a candidate or see past award winners, see the SMLD web site.

<http://www.maine.gov/msl/sml/council/appreciation.htm>



Richard Tucker and Cori McGrath

Around the District

After three years of planning, the Staff and Trustees of the **Kennebunk Free Library** opened the Reference Room Café on Wednesday, June 17. An outdoor seating area has also been added. Local catering company Silver Tureen manages the café and offers healthy food -- drinks, pastries, cookies, sandwiches, and salads. The Café has leather chairs, counter seating and free WiFi and is open the same hours as the library. All funds for the Café were raised through private donations.



The Maine Women Writers' Collection at the University of New England celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer with a series of events in June <http://www.une.edu/mwwc/conferences/2009acadconf.asp>.

Falmouth Memorial Library is holding a Summer Reading Club for adults for the first time this summer. Colorful entry forms provide guidelines: list the titles, authors, and comments for three books or audiobooks and return the form for prize drawings. Multiple entries are allowed but only one prize per reader.

McArthur Public Library in Biddeford has subscribed to several databases that it finds useful for their patrons -- **"Maps A to Z," "Mango Languages,"** and **"Global Road Warrior."** All are password-protected and available only to cardholders. The maps product includes over 200 world maps, all U.S. states, 175 countries plus climate change, hurricane, flag and many other maps. The Road Warrior database for international trade and business travel includes critical information for 175 countries. The language program is an online learning system that covers French, German, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, and many others. FMI: Sally Leahy, Reference Dept., (207) 284-4181.

A series of programs on vegetable gardening is a highlight at the **Harrison Village Library**.

"Kids and Kameran" is a program that was started with grant funds at the **Naples Public Library** almost a decade ago as a summer event. It has grown over the years and is now a year-round program for 25 kids who learn about cameras and photography.

The **Brownfield Public Library** recently held a turkey dinner fund-raiser and made donations to a local food pantry.

Trustee Forums

Library Board member Charlie Simpson described the **Rice Public Library's Advocacy Campaign** at the Trustee Forum held in May at the **York Public Library**. Organized in response to anticipated budget and staff cuts, the committee consisted of library supporter **Diane Fallon**, a board member, a Friend, and the director. The committee developed promotional materials and involved hundreds of Kittery citizens in their successful campaign. At the Town Council budget meeting supporters wore name tags with the slogan "I Love the Rice Library." Another successful tool used was a fact sheet outlining myths vs. facts that explained some of the common misconceptions about libraries and their funding sources.

Seven additional Forums were held in the three library districts in Bangor, Dover Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Freeport, Washington, Winslow, and Winthrop libraries.

New Mentoring Project

The Maine State Library has started a mentoring service to link librarians with questions to librarians who have working knowledge and experience to share.

A mentor is an experienced person who willingly provides professional and useful advice to other librarians who may be having a difficult time and/or just need some guidance in a particular area of librarianship..

Librarians are encouraged to sign up as a mentor or to find a mentor on the database. See details at:

<http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/districts/mentor/>

WiFi Increase in Maine

A total of 213 Maine public libraries out of 272 -- or 78% -- are now wireless, a great increase since WiFi was established in libraries in 2005.

Literary Map of Maine & Online Book Discussions

A final list of titles is being added to the online Literary Map of Maine, hosted by the Portland Press Herald on their web site <http://pressherald.maintoday.com/>.

The online map will contain a total of 100 books when completed. There are tentative plans at the newspaper to reprint the Literary Map later this year. The new printed edition would include all 100 titles.



Readers are able to search for specific titles or authors, and to locate a Maine setting for each book on a Google map.

"Read Around Maine" -- book blog discussions based on selected books in the Literary Map of Maine -- has concluded for the present with the June selection. The blog featured a

different selection for each month from January to June 2009. Archives for the discussion can be found on the newspaper's website for the Literary Map.

E-Rate Alert for Public Libraries

SMLD representatives are currently rewriting the SMLD Technology Plan for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013. The new plan will cover **all SMLD public libraries** so we can be sure that all public libraries will be eligible for new services, additional bandwidth, etc. Because MSLN is in the midst of an RFP process, we have a limited time frame to be met so we must ensure that all libraries – even if they have Tech Plans of their own in place – are part of the new process. Every public library will need to update their Tech Atlas information at <http://webjunction.techatlas.org/tools/> by Sept. 30.

More information will be distributed via MELIBS, MEINFO and ERATE-MAINE during the month of August.

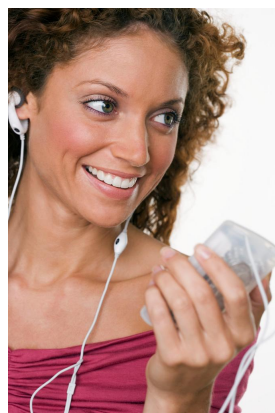
FMI: **Janet McKenney**, Maine State Library, (207) 287-5620 or janet.mckenney@maine.gov.

Do you have a Special Collection?

In response to the Collection Development Summit hosted by Maine InfoNet on June 15, 2009, the Maine State Library has developed a website for listing **collection strengths and/or special collections** from Maine Libraries <http://www.maine.gov/msl/special/>. MSL staff will "activate" information after it is entered; your information should appear on the web page within two business days. Special recognition goes to MSL staff **Peggy O'Kane** and **Ellen Wood** for developing the site.

Downloadable Audiobooks

Maine InfoNet's **James Jackson Sanborn** presented information about this new service offered through the vendor **OverDrive** at the spring SMLD Council Meeting. The service provides downloadable audio books, eBooks and other popular digital media to member libraries that subscribed last year.



Titles from OverDrive are being added on a regular basis for adult and juvenile readers. Information about the books and how to use the service can be found on each library's web site.

Patrons check out downloadable digital content via the Internet for free, 24/7, to a variety of audio listening devices.

Libraries may still join, but it will cost \$300 if a library does not have its own ILS, or \$1,500 if the library has its own, independent ILS. Any library that is a member of the Maine Regional Library System is eligible to join. FMI: <http://www.maine.gov/infonet/digital/audio.shtml>

FoML Founder Dies

Edith Anderson, first president of the **Friends of Maine Libraries**, died on May 27 in Bangor at the age of 94. Together with her husband Bill, the late Maureen Goff, and consultant Shirley Helfrich, they established FoML in 1992. Edith was executive director of Abnaki Girl Scout Council until her retirement in 1980, a lifelong friend of libraries and literacy, and a Red Cross volunteer during WWII. Cards may be sent to Bill Anderson, 116 Heather Way, Hampden, ME 04444.

Maine Island Libraries

Check out our captivating island libraries on the Spotlight page of the MaineLibraries website <http://www.maine.gov/libraries/spotlights/>.

These charming libraries have been featured during the year: on Mt. Desert Island are the Bass Harbor, Jesup Memorial in Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor (shown at right), and Somesville libraries. Other island libraries depicted are Chebeague Island, Long Island, Peak's Island, and Monhegan. Each has a unique history and are central to their communities. Plan a visit to one this summer – you'll be richly rewarded.



New Friends in Portland

Friends of Portland Public Library were organized in February 2009 with five areas of focus: advocacy, community input and collaborations, volunteer support, fundraising, and programming. Their first President is **Ted Spitzer** who announced that the Friends will be running a big book sale in the fall. Dues are \$10 for individuals, \$15 for families, and \$25 for businesses. FMI: Friends of Portland Public Library, PO Box 15120, Portland, 04112. 871-1700 x752 info@friendsofppl.org. website: www.friendsofppl.org

Reading Round Up Past & Future



Next year's conference will be held Thursday April 17 at the same venue for the same fee (\$55). Watch for conference details later this year.

Shown at left is Lupine Award winner Melissa Sweet. See additional photos of this year's children's literature conference held at the Augusta Civic Center on the

Maine State Library website <http://www.maine.gov/msl/libraries/districts/rru2009.htm>.

Library Makeovers

Public libraries in **Acton, Bingham, Ellsworth, Norway and Southwest Harbor** were selected for one-day makeovers in 2009. Projects this year included children's and teen rooms, staff areas, and a multipurpose room. Each library received a hands-on makeover, a written report with recommendations, and a small stipend for future purchases. Team members consisted of district consultants, library and trustee volunteers, and Cori McGrath and Richard Tucker from Tucker Library Interiors in New Hampshire. Nineteen libraries have received makeovers since the project began in 2006. Many have continued to make changes and some have begun planning for renovations or additions.

Library Construction?

Is your library planning a renovation project? Addition? New building? If so, the Maine State Library staff encourages you to fill out a simple form on their website about your project.

<http://www.maine.gov/msl/libraries/construction/shareproject.htm>

If your library project is *already* listed, you can use this form to correct or add information.

To see a list of all library projects go to

<http://www.maine.gov/msl/libraries/construction/projects.shtml>

MARVEL! Update

Effective July 1, **Novelist Plus** and **Novelist K-8 Plus** were added to the MARVEL! databases. NoveList Plus is a readers' advisory tool for searching popular fiction and nonfiction, author read-alikes, book lists, book discussion guides, genre outlines and training materials for librarians.

NoveList K-8 Plus is designed for librarians, school media specialists, teachers, and parents assisting elementary and middle school students. It includes fiction and nonfiction that support the school curriculum, and pleasure reading for students. Included are book jacket images, annotations, first chapter excerpts, Lexile scores, popularity ratings, BookTalks, and Curricular Connections.

These additions were made possible by a \$50,000 increase in database funding from the Maine Telecommunications Access Fund (a.k.a. state E-rate).

Community Heritage Grants

The Maine Historical Society announced the addition of eight new communities to their Maine Community Heritage Project: **Bangor, Biddeford, Blue Hill, Cumberland and North Yarmouth, Guilford, Hallowell, Lincoln, and Scarborough.**

The MCHP is an innovative new program that promotes collaboration between local schools, historical societies, and public libraries through the exploration and celebration of local history. Teams will receive extensive training and support from MHS staff as well as funds of up to \$7,500 to support project activities. The program is supported by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services.

Teams from **Bath, Farmington, Hampden, Islesboro, Lubec, New Portland, Presque Isle, and Thomaston** were previously awarded grants, and have spent the past year researching the history of their communities, digitizing historical items, creating online exhibits, and building websites for Maine Memory Network
<http://www.mainememory.net/>.

FMI: Larissa Vigue Picard, Community Partnership Coordinator, (207)774-1822 ext. 215
lvpicard@mainehistory.org

Library Promotion

Have any of your patrons ever told you how much the library has meant to them? How the library has helped to get a job, establish a new business, or connect with family history? Promoting libraries is as important as ever, and one of the best ways is through **stories of how libraries have transformed people's lives**. A form has been created on the Maine State Library website for these stories <http://www.maine.gov/msl/share.htm>. Only the person's first name will be used. There is no deadline – this is an ongoing project. The stories may be used at the local, state and federal levels.

PR Resources

Find posters, bookmarks, and news articles about Baxter the Library mascot, the economy, the Literary Map and more on the Maine State Library website
<http://www.maine.gov/msl/libs/pr/>.

State Government Closure Days

The budget legislation for the next biennium requires all executive branch state departments, agencies, and offices (except those determined to be exempt) to be closed for 10 days in fiscal year 2009 – 2010, and 10 days in fiscal year 2010 – 2011.

As a unit of state government under the Maine State Library, **the SMLD Office is required to comply with these shutdown days.**

Following are the dates for the current fiscal year:

Monday, July 6, 2009
Friday, August 7, 2009
Friday, Sept. 4, 2009
Friday, Oct. 9, 2009
Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009
Friday, January 15, 2010
Friday, February 12, 2010
Friday, March 12, 2010
Friday, April 16, 2010
Friday, May 28, 2010

Employees not required to work because their offices are closed must take the days off without pay.

Going Green with the National Library of Medicine

Michelle Eberle from the National Library of Medicine presented a workshop titled “Going Green” for a recent SMLD Reference Librarians meeting at the Curtis Memorial Library. Her presentation was the first workshop on this topic, and covered a variety of resources for librarians and patrons.

The resources, available on the NLM website, include some for children as well as adults. For example, ToxMystery has information about chemical hazards around the home for children in Grades 2 – 6. It can be viewed at <http://toxymystery.nlm.nih.gov/>.

Environmental health risks for Grades 7 – adults are on the NLM site <http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov>.

For further information, contact the National library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland at 1-888-FIND-NLM.

SMLD Professional Books

The district offices are no longer purchasing new titles for their collections but instead have decided that it is more cost effective to have orders placed at the Maine State Library for the use of librarians and trustees.

However, there are still many useful titles in the SMLD Office. Here are some examples:

Teen Library Events: A Month-by-Month Guide by Kirsten Edwards contains detailed ideas for creating, promoting, and organizing a coffeehouse, getting a summer job, game night, container gardening, the Printz Award and much more.

The Plagiarism Plague: A Resource Guide and CD-Rom Tutorial for Educators and Librarians edited by Vibiana Bowman. Sample topics: "Where to Go to Buy a Paper," "Attitudes of High School Students Toward Plagiarism," and "The Role of Faculty."

Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Preteens and Teens by Michele Gorman. In addition to annotated titles, this volume covers curriculum integration, circulation, comics vs. graphic novels, publishing companies and distributors, and a sample collection development policy.

Fundraising Mistakes That Bedevil All Boards (and Staff Too) – A 1-Hour Guide to Identifying and Overcoming Obstacles to Your Success by Kay Sprinkel Grace. She outlines a list of top errors about tax deductibility, special events, annual donors, the need for powerful boards, and many more.

Coping with Cutbacks: The Nonprofit Guide to Success When Times are Tight by Emil Angelica and Vincent Hyman. This book is "not about how to get 'lean and mean'." It *is* about other approaches and strategies, and has reproducible worksheets.

Defusing the Angry Patron: A How-To-Do-It Manual by Rhea Joyce Rubin. Sample topics: red flag words, nonverbal language, signage, policies, mentally ill or patrons under the influence, incident reports.



People

New appointment

Cathy Potter, Library/Media Specialist, Plummer-Motz Elementary School, Falmouth

Meeting Registrations

Please note: For meetings requiring payment, you are not officially registered until we receive your check. We report only **paid registrations** to caterers and facilities.



Calendar

Please register for all SMLD programs and workshops on the statewide WebJunction Maine Library Community Calendar - <http://evanced.info/maine/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

August 13	SMLD Children's & YA Book Review Portland Public Library, 4:30 – 7:00 pm
September 16	SMLD Children's & YA Book Review Portland Public Library, 10:15 am – 12 Noon
September 23	Meeting for Children's Librarians, "Beyond Storytime Basics: Incorporating Math and Science Into Your Program." Speaker: Jan Hamilton. Prince Memorial Library, Cumberland, 9-11:30 am
September 24	Public Library Directors – Yapping Yorkies Limerick Public Library 9:30 am – 12 Noon
September 25	SMLD Board Meeting. Scarborough Public Library, 1-4 pm
Sept. 26 - Oct. 3	Banned Books Week
October 1	Public Library Directors – Daring Directors Freeport Community Library, 9:30-11:30 am
October 14	SMLD Children's & YA Book Review Portland Public Library, 10:15 am – 12 Noon
October 16	Public Library Directors – Loose Librarians Raymond Village Library, 9:30 am – 12 Noon
October 18-20	NELA Conference. Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford CT
October 25-27	NAHSL Conference, Samoset Resort
October 30	Tri-District Council Meeting Augusta Civic Center
November 18	SMLD Children's & YA Book Review Portland Public Library, 10:15 am – 12 Noon
November 20	SMLD Board Meeting. Walker Memorial Library, Westbrook, 1-4 pm
December 9	SMLD Children's & YA Book Review Portland Public Library, 10:15 am – 12 Noon